

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings, and all prior versions, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

[1] (Original) A metal nanocolloidal liquid characterized by containing a dispersion medium and nanocolloidal metal particles, and containing substantially no protective colloid-forming agent.

[2] (Original) A metal nanocolloidal liquid as described in claim 1, which has a nanocolloidal metal particle concentration of 250 mass ppm or more.

[3] (Currently amended) A metal nanocolloidal liquid as described in claim 1 or 2, wherein the protective colloid-forming agent content as reduced to carbon is equivalent to a total carbon of 0 to 200 mass ppm with respect to the nanocolloidal metal particles.

[4] (Currently amended) A metal nanocolloidal liquid as described in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 through 3~~, wherein the nanocolloidal metal particles have a mean particle size of 1 to 20 nm.

[5] (Currently amended) A metal nanocolloidal liquid as described in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 through 4~~, wherein the nanocolloidal metal particles are nanocolloidal

particles of at least one noble metal selected from the group consisting of platinum, ruthenium, palladium, rhodium, rhenium, osmium, and gold.

[6] (Currently amended) A metal nanocolloidal liquid as described in claim 1~~any of claims 1 through 5~~, wherein the dispersion medium is an aqueous medium.

[7] (Currently amended) A method for producing a metal-on-carrier, characterized by comprising causing nanocolloidal metal particles to be carried on a carrier by use of a metal nanocolloidal liquid as recited in claim 1~~any of claims 1 through 6~~.

[8] (Original) A method for producing a metal-on-carrier as described in claim 7, wherein the carrier is an electrically conductive carrier, and the nanocolloidal metal particles are caused to be carried on the carrier through electrodeposition.

[9] (Original) A method for producing a metal-on-carrier as described in claim 8, wherein the metal nanocolloidal liquid contains a reducing agent in a molecule-based amount 0.03 to 0.25 times by mole the atom-based amount of the metal(s) constituting the nanocolloidal metal particles, and the reducing agent has been employed during production of the nanocolloidal liquid.

[10] (Currently amended) A method for producing a metal-on-carrier as described in claim 8 ~~or 9~~, wherein the electrically conductive carrier is a carrier formed

of a carbon material, an electrically conductive metal oxide material, or a metallic material; or a carrier formed of a ceramic material, a non-electrically conductive metal oxide material, or an organic polymer material, and having an electrically conductive layer on the surface thereof.

[11] (Currently amended) A method for producing a metal-on-carrier as described in claim 8~~any of claims 8 through 10~~, wherein the electrically conductive carrier has been subjected to surface treatment in advance by use of the reducing agent which has been employed during production of the metal nanocolloidal liquid.

[12] (Original) A method for producing a metal-on-carrier as described in claim 7, wherein the dispersion medium is an aqueous medium, and the nanocolloidal metal particles are caused to be carried on the carrier through spraying.

[13] (Original) A method for producing a metal-on-carrier as described in claim 12, wherein the metal nanocolloidal liquid is concentrated in a vapor phase, and the nanocolloidal metal particles are caused to be carried on the carrier.

[14] (Currently amended) A method for producing a metal-on-carrier as described in claim 12~~or 13~~, wherein the carrier is heated to 50 to 90°C, and the metal nanocolloidal liquid is sprayed onto the thus-heated carrier.

[15] (Currently amended) A method for producing a metal-on-carrier as described in claim 12~~any of claims 12 through 14~~, wherein the carrier is provided with a masking member on a surface thereof, and the metal nanocolloidal liquid is sprayed onto the carrier through the masking member.

[16] (Currently amended) A method for producing a metal-on-carrier as described in claim 12~~any of claims 12 through 15~~, wherein the carrier is formed of a carbon material, a ceramic/metal oxide material, a metallic material, or an organic polymer material.

[17] (Currently amended) A metal-on-carrier characterized by being produced through a production method as recited in claim 7~~any of claims 7 through 16~~.